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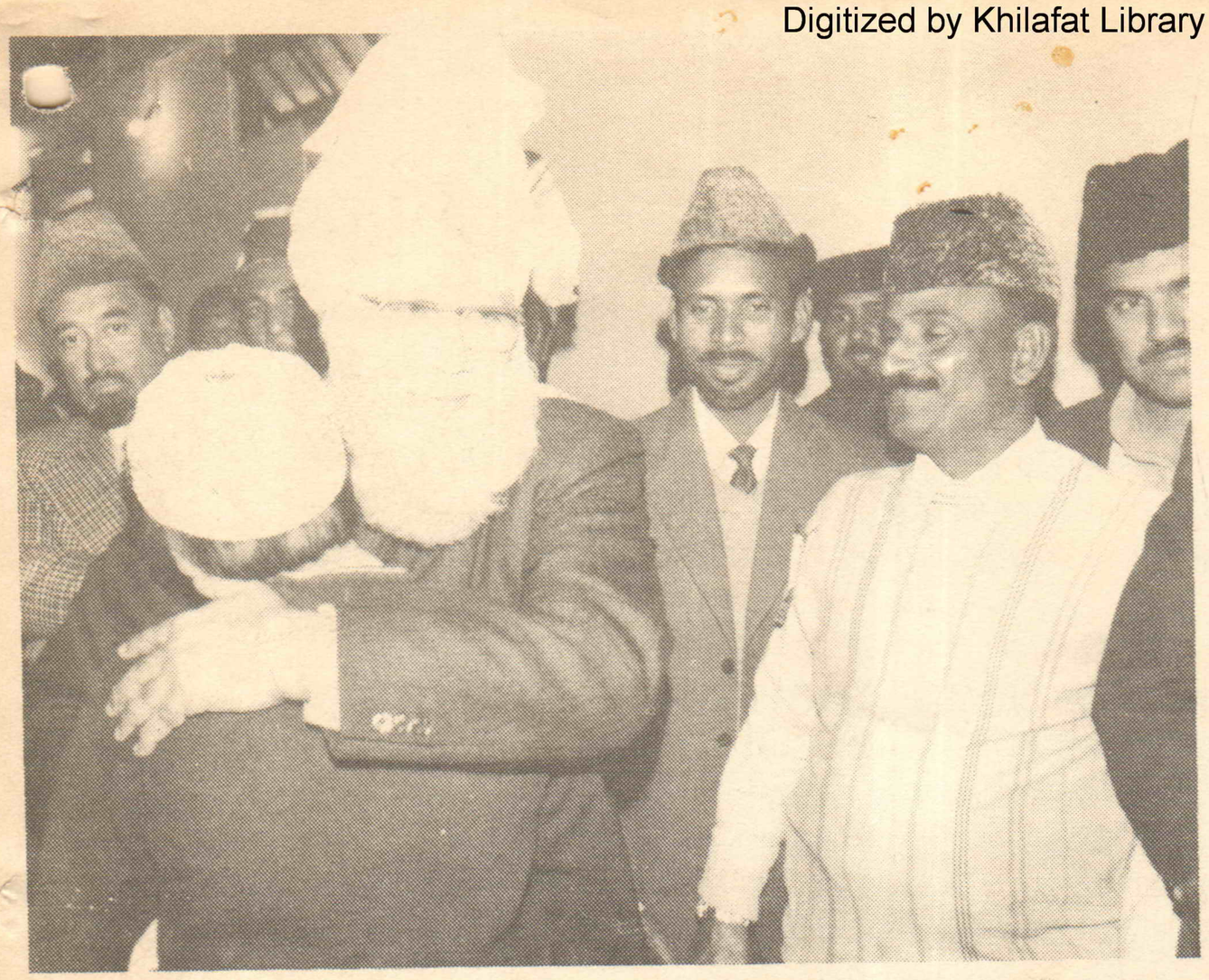

Hazur embracing a young delegate.

خلافت لائبریری ربوہ

بسم اللہ الرحمن الرحیم

نحمدہ ونصلی علی رسولہ الکریم

لا الٰہ الا اللہ محمد رسول اللہ ان الدین عند اللہ الاسلام

AHMADIYYA GAZETTE

JALSA SALANA NUMBER. FEBRUARY - 1976

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1975 JALSA SALANA

Our 83rd Annual Jalsa Salana started in all earnest in an atmosphere of prayers for the early and speedy spiritual domination of Islam over all other religions. Thousands of male and female believers from all parts of the country flocked to RABWAH, including 80 delegates from 14 foreign countries. They were accomodated in special guesthouses constructed under instruction from the Head of the community. The total number of participants exceeded 125,000.

In the course of his opening speech on December 26, 1975, Huzur observed: "God is not miserly in his benediction. We have before our eyes the beneficial treatment meted out to the Promised Messiah. In fulfillment of the prophecy that his message will reach the corners of the earth, nations from distant corners of the globe have joined us."

At this point Huzur asked the foreign delegates seated on the stage to stand up and people were overjoyed to see Ahmadi brothers from the U.S.A., Canada, West Germany, Sweden, England, Sierra Leone, Mauritius, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. They shouted out slogans of Allaho Akbar in ecstacy.

In his Friday sermon Huzur recited several verses from the Holy Quran about hypocrites and warned Ahmadies to be always vigilant so that weak members and hypocrites were stopped from creating disruption in the ranks of the community.

Dec. 27, 1975: When the second session started after Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III had led congregational Zohr and Asr prayers, the stadium was full to capacity with thousands of his followers.

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As usual, the second day's speech touched on various aspects of the Jama'at activities. Huzur dilated on the need for research work in the field of Quranic knowledge. Modern philosophy and scientific research he said, were used by the opponents of Islam as an instrument of attacking Islamic teaching. As the community was out to defeat all anti-Islamic propaganda single-handed our younger generation was bound to offer itself to be trained in modern science and philosophy on one side and in the Islamic lore on the other.

Huzur called upon young Ahmadi students to devote themselves to the study of scientific theories and their practical application in U.K., U.S.A., Russia and China. Jama'at will select intelligent and industrious youths and send them to various universities abroad after M.A. and M. Sc. degrees. The Ahmadiyya Community in U.K. had offered a scholarship ₤ 60.00 a month to a deserving student during the next year. The offer made by the London Community was followed by the American delegates. They undertook to offer a similar scholarship. Similar offers were made on behalf of Canada, Indonesia and Ghana Jammats.

Huzur then pointed to the visible difference in the Christian and Ahmadi attitudes towards other nations, particularly Africans. "Christian propagandists reached the African soil with the message of Christian love on their lips, but deprived the local people of their riches and shifted them to their own countries. While we are there to serve and teach them and heads of all African independent states whom I had a chance to see during my previous tours of the African continent had expressed their admiration for our selfless services."

Continuing Huzur said, "Like our other Institutions, the beginning of Tahrik-i-Jadid was modest. The second Khalifa, Hazrat Musleh Mauood, launched an appeal for Rs. 27,000. The response from the community was encouraging and Rs. 100,000 were collected in 1934. But now the community has made remarkable progress." Huzur appealed in 1973 for making pledges for the payment of Rs. 25,000,000 (25 million), but friends sent in their pledges for a hundred million rupees for the first Centinary Fund. "The work done by the Tahrik-i-Jadid could not be explained in the limited time at my disposal now, but I may say this that it has won the praise of one and all who came in contact with it."

Now we have Nusrat Jahan Reserve Fund scheme which is a child of Tahrik-i-Jadid. Secondary schools and Health Centres are being opened and run under this scheme. Hundreds of thousands of sick Africans have received medical treatment at our Clinics. High Officials have lavished praise and expressed satisfaction over the results of our devoted service. The community has made considerable progress. Only during this year 29 new branches have been opened in foreign countries. Five hundred mosques have so far been constructed there. Foundation stone of a new mosque in Sweden has been laid and we hope to build another mosque in Norway in 1977. We have already completed a mosque in Denmark.

Referring to the political decision for making an amendment in Pakistan Constitution, Huzur said that it necessitated the publication of a book about marriage and divorce from Ahmadiyya point of view to be followed here. Ele-

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mentary work on both the Chapters had been done which would be brought in the Majlis Shoora for approval after its completion.

Under the Chairmanship of Sahibzada Mirza Tahir Ahmad, a Meeting was held in Aqsa Mosque late in the night in which a passage from a writing of the Imam Mahdi, peace be on him, was translated in more than forty languages and read out to a huge gathering of friends by our missionaries who had worked abroad and by the members of foreign delegations and others.

Dec. 28, 1975: In the morning of the third and the last day of our Annual Meeting sky was covered with clouds. It drizzled and stopped and rained again. However, the session started at the scheduled time and speeches were delivered by the appointees.

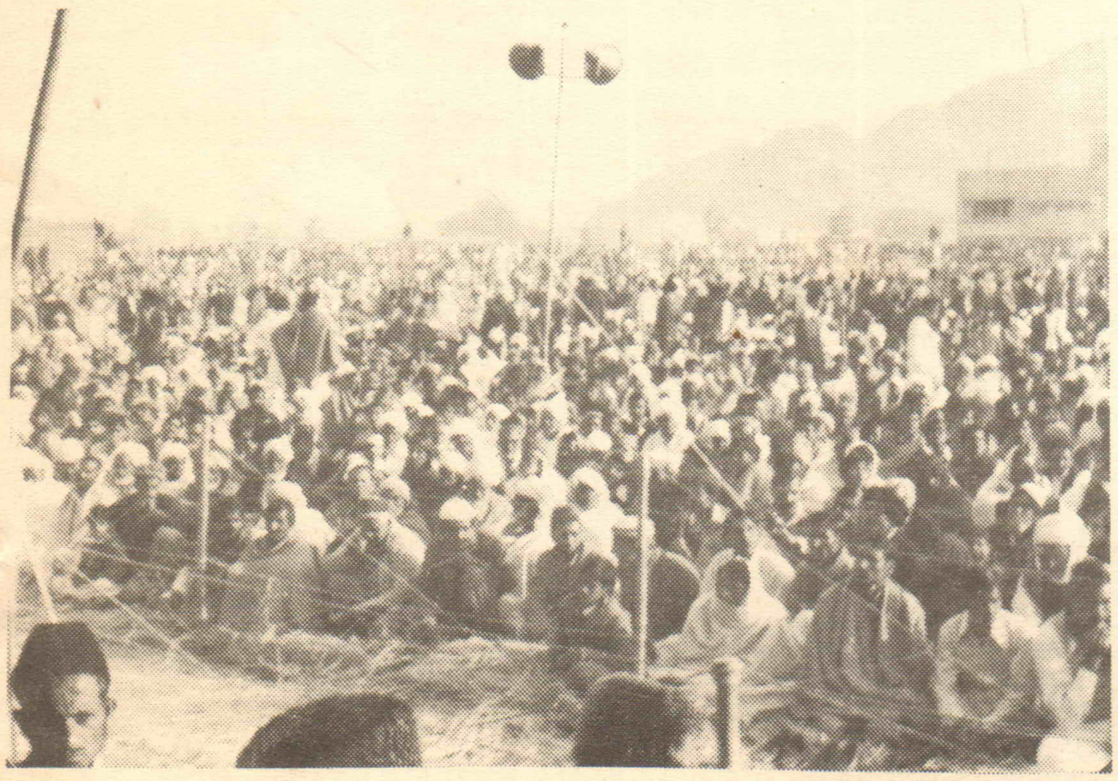
Huzur delivered an illuminating and educative discourse and made all his listeners resolve to bring about a spiritual and moral change in the whole world for the benefit of all humanity.

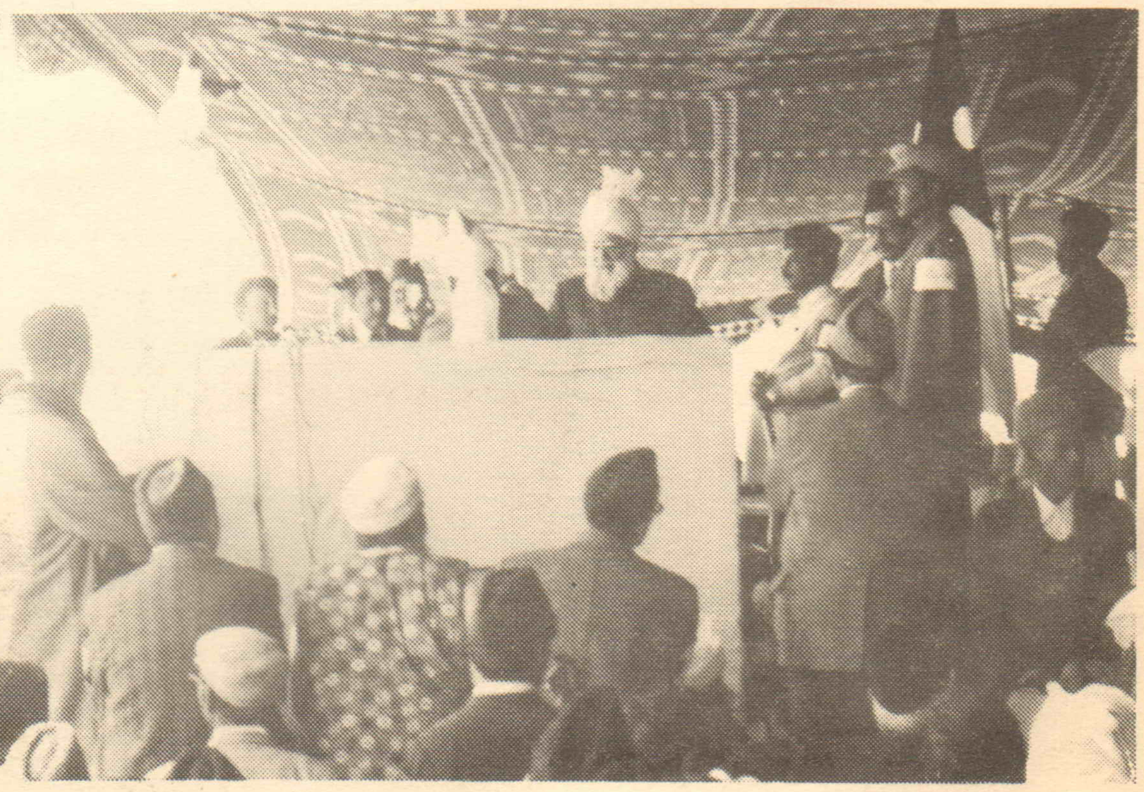
He was askedin the morning by the Management as to what he proposed to do if the rain continued. He said, "I told them that I will attend the Meeting and enjoy the rain with my brothers." But the sun shone at that time and he asked his listeners to praise Allah loudly by chanting the slogan "Allaho Akbar". All the attendants then shouted "Allaho Akbar" with all the strength they could muster and there was joy all over. Allah be praised for His bounties!

After that he said that Islam was a perfect religion and the Holy Quran itself made that claim. Huzur reminded his followers and other participants of Jalsa that our Holy Prophet was sent for the perfection of high morals.

Huzur said that we were required to develop our physical, mental, moral and spiritual qualities. Our Holy Prophet has given detailed instructions about all the aspects of our life and we should know them and put them into practice honestly and faithfully. Observance of Islamic ettiquettes transformed a savage into a human being in the first instance. The second step was to turn a human being into a moral creature.

Huzur announced the GRAND MORAL STRUGGLE and charged all Ahmadies to bring about a moral and spiritual change in themselves and their fellow beings. The Ahmadi Ulama were to collect all Islamic ettiquettes and moral instructions issued by the Holy Prophet and continue explaining them to the younger generation.





P1) Huzur addressing the Gathering.
P2) A section of the Gathering.

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FRIDAY SERMON FOR AMERICANS

(One January 9, 1976 Huzur delivered the following sermon as reported by the Alfazl, for the benefit of the Ahmadis in America.)

Huzur said that by the Grace of God the Ahmadiyya Movement has spread all over the world. For the last three years delegations of Ahmadis from various countries had travelled thousands of miles to attend the annual gathering in Rabwah. He added that this year also they had various delegations. The biggest delegation was from the USA, which comprised of 41 members. (more correctly 43-Ed.) This delegation was supposed to leave Rabwah after the Jumaa Prayers.

Huzur then said, "I want to say a few words to the Jammat in common and the American delegation in particular". After that Huzur quoted various verses from the Holy Quran and said, "there are different kinds of people who believe in the Creator of this universe and the hereafter:

1) Those lucky people who remain steadfast after their belief and adopt the right path. No power on earth can move them from their belief. These are the people on whom Allah bestows unlimited bounties of Paradise.
2) The second group of people are those who are somewhat weak in their faith but strive to reform themselves and eventually join the first group of people.
3) The third group consists of those people who are spiritually diseased. They are influenced by good people as well as bad people. It is difficult for these people to mend their ways unless helped to reform themselves.
4) The fourth group is that of hypocrites for whom God has said that they will stay in their transgression because of their deeds. Their future is much darker and horrible than their past. The claim to reform people in disguise but create and spread trouble instead. These people can hardly mend their ways. We must be aware of them.

Huzur went on to say that the Ahmadis in America also have the above mentioned types of people. He stressed upon the Jammat and the brethren in America particularly to set a a good example like those people whose belief in Allah is firm and steadfast and who help each other by their good deeds and prayers, create a holy atmosphere and try to reform their weak brethren. (Translated by Dr. N. A. Mubashar)

MIRZA MUBARAK AHMAD'S SPEECH

ON PROMISED MESSIAH'S LOVE OF THE HOLY PROPHET
(May Peace & Blessings of Allah be on him)

In his introductory remarks he observed that as for the love which the Promised Messiah bore for the Holy Prophet, it is very hard to measure its depth. It dominated his whole being. The Holy Prophet was in all his thoughts and all his pleasures as well as his griefs had their roots in him. It animated and activated his life and gave him solace when he felt sore. He would feel elated in his remembrance and due to him he would also rend his breast with groans.

There is no mechanical device for measuring the depth of human passions. A lover's claim is proved only by the claimant's reactions to different situations concerning his beloved. His writings and discourses would reveal the

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nature of his inner feelings. When we examine the Promised Messiah's claim in this context we find ample proofs of his true love of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be on him).

The Promised Messiah was a master writer. He has written much both in verse and in prose. Most of his books are in Urdu but he also wrote in Arabic and Persian. In all his writings he has sung praises of the Holy Prophet. This is his pet subject to which he turns again and again. He glorifies the Holy Prophet so often and so passionately as to leave no doubt that for this subject alone he found his heart's content.

Sahibzada then proceeded to quote copious references from the works of the Promised Messiah to amplify his remarks which enlightened the huge audience.

IMPRESSIONS
OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATES
OF THE JALSA SALANA

(Alhaj Muzaffar Ahmad, Amir, Dayton and Midwest region had the honor of leading the American delegation to Rabwah and Qadian, this year as well. Besides covering other areas, he seems to have watched at close quarters several responsible dignitaries, particularly members of the Promised Messiah's family, engaged in the service of the Movement, who impressed him with what he describes below.————Ed)

There is no No: 2

My attendance of the 83rd Jalsa Salana was different from my two earlier visits to this blessed function. On my first trip in 1973, I saw my great spiritual leader for the first time and was too filled with reverance and awe to think of anybody or anything else except my beloved. During my second visit I had almost the same feelings, but intensified. The wonderful and unique qualitites of Huzur which had been hidden from my sight and comprehension on the earlier visit made a deeper impression on me. I now clearly realized the impact of divine leadership and the influence and the authority he holds over his world-wide community.

Saturated with love of the beauties of our beloved Imam, this year, at the 1975 Jalsa Salana, I had opportunities of watching besides Huzur, some other divines around him, particularly members of the Promised Messiah's family (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) excelling one another in exhibiting the finest qualities they have inherited from our great spiritual Founder. Therefore I propose to give hereunder my personal impressions about some of the blessed lieutenants of Huzur who struck me most.

The organizational features of Jalsa Salana are a lesson for each of us in discipline, sacrifice and most of all, humility. All activities are carried out to please Allah under the direction of his Khalifa, Hazrat Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad.

Members of the family of the Promised Messiah were the perfect manifestation of the aforementioned qualities. The great grandsons of the Promised Messiah were assigned to our guesthouse to serve us. We were dumbstruck when

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they were introduced to us; there was no trace of vanity, arrogance, or airs of importance manifested in their attitudes as commonly found among people of importance in the western cultures. The example of these young men are a guidepost for young men everywhere who seek the favor of Allah and obey his Khalifa.

The vigor and earnestness of these young men and, in fact every person given an assignment by Huzur, are responsible for making our stay so comfortable, I must say our accomodations were excellent and second to none.

The attitudes of wisdom and knowledge are manifested in the speech, actions, and deeds of our beloved Khalifa. His character is like the central atom which the others in its sphere revolve and diffuse its light around. We have had around old stalwarts as Maulana Abul Ata, Qazi M. Nazeer and Abdul Malik Khan, the last of whom gave us special time after his illuminating dars after Fajr prayer. Special meetings with these divines left us reeling with spiritual knowledge. Speeches of young divines with great scholarly qualities, Mirza Tahir Ahmad in particular, on each of my previous trips to Jalsa, has spent both afternoons and nights explaining points of Islam to our delegations; his knowledge is exspansive. After hearing the gist of his lectures on the sacrifices of women in Ahmadiyyat, I realized that all the professed qualities and sacrifices, mine or of my colleagues, are nothing as compared with those of Lajna Imaullah. I only wish that I and my offspring if given a chance to serve in the cause of Islam rise to the occasion with the same spirit that the handmaids of Allah have exhibited. We in America and Europe are the recipients of their scarifices. They were the major contributors to the early Missionary thrust initiated under Khalifatul Masih II, (RAA). Mir Mahmud Ahmad was an inspiration to me in many ways. The fraternity and brotherhood shown by him, I shall never forget. I feel as though I have left a brother behind and long to enjoy his company again.

Our women are not without great personalities. The impact of Hazrat Maryam Saddiqa has left a lasting impression upon our Lajna members who attended the last two Jalsa Salanas. As a result of contacts with her and Begum Sahiba, Ahmadi women in America now observe purdah and I am sure that every effort is being made by our sisters in America to emulate the noble qualities of women in Rabwah in their everyday lives.

Sahibzada Mirza Mubarak Ahmad, the Vakile Tabshir, who has the responsibility for the world wide missionary activities, is an extremely talented man. He enjoys a well-earned reputation as an excellent organizer. Under his supervison his organization saw that we were provided with all creature facilities. Mirza Mubarak Ahmad, a man who commands so much authority, would however, tell all and sundry that in the Ahmadiyya Community only one official counts and that is the Khalifa. There is no No: 2 or second in Command in our community. All submit to the authority of Huzur and carry out most faithfully whatever duties are assigned to them. Obedience to Khalifat is their creed. The gifted Mirza Mabarak Ahmad is also the Sadr of the Ansar Allah, for very Ansar he is an example of the role that you must play in service of Allah and his Khalifa. Mirza Mubarak Ahmad presented America its first Ansarullah flag. I pray that we carry it well.

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Qadian the birth place of the blessed Founder of our Movement, the Promised Masih and Mahdi (AS) is truly a place of spiritual delight. The atmosphere dictates to your consciousness that some profound act of God has transpired there. The visit to the shrines of our movement are a blessing which staggers description.

The character of the Ahmadis of Qadian is one we in America should emulate. Our beloved Khalifatul Masih III, Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad has said we should pattern ourselves after Qadian. Our brothers in Qadian are a small community and are surrounded by non-muslims, but their love of Allah and His noble Prophet(SAS) is first and foremost in their lives. They are the perfect illustration of how one must cut himself away from all but Allah. This community started from 313 Darwishes who stayed behind after the partition of India and Pakistan, have now grown to 1500 perhaps more. They are under the guidance of Mirza Wasim Ahmad, the secretary of the Indian Missions, who resides in the home of the Promised Masiah. The Amir of Qadian is Maulana Abdur Rahman, a Sahabi of the Promised Masiah (SA). I would like to point out that Mirza Wasim Ahmad is a grandson of the Promised Masiah (AS). He is a pious and noble man and exhibits the same beautiful qualities as his brothers and we can learn much from his actions such as how one conducts himself in a non-muslim majority surrounding. He is indeed a star that should be followed. Many lessons we in America with titles of leadership can learn from him.

Our visits to Qadian are part of the fulfillment of the prophecy that Allah would cause men to come from the farthest corners of the world to visit the Promised Masiah and Mahdi(AS). Alhamdulillah!

TREMENDOUS FAITH

(ALHAJ ABDUR RAQIB WALI, BOSTON MASS.)

After going to Jalsa Salana for the second time, I have given up trying to explain the spiritual beauty that I found in Rabwah. I believe that every Ahmadi should, be he American, African or Englishman, go to Rabwah and Qadian in order to understand what Ahmadiyyat is and why it is important that the world should accept true Islam.

I shall try to convey the love I found among the brethren for Islam. I spent my time meeting the brethren and riding around Rabwah on a rented bike.

One of the highlights of the Jalsa was during the final day of the program which was a very cold rainy day. One of those days when you wished you had stayed home. That day I'm certain will remain in the minds of every delegate who was present to witness that scene. We observed the most tremendous faith, courage and enthusiasm that I have ever seen from the people of Rabwah on that rainy day. We saw men and small children filling the Jalsa area like ants discovering a crumb. They were coming in the cold rain, sitting on wet straw to hear the words of Allah and His Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be on him forever). It was the most impressive scene of my trip and one I shall never forget. It made a great impact on every delegate. I saw in those people a great love for Islam. They were just sitting there like stones placed in puddles of water waiting for the arrival of their Khalifa.

In Qadian I embraced one of the brothers there and I felt from him a great love so much so that I just held onto him tightly and began to weep. I don't even remember his name or his face but I do remember his heart. I hope and pray that more of our members will be able to go this year (1976). In fact, I have started saving already for Jalsa and I have only been home three days.

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LOVE FLOWS LIKE A RIVER

(MUNIR AHMAD, AMIR, ST. LOUIS MO.)

First I must say all praises belong to Allah for making it possible for me to attend the Jalsa Salana. All obstacles in my way were removed from my path, and I was there. Alhamdolillah!

I must admit I do not have words to express the impressions I received. To get the full impact of the visit one must attend himself. It is no ordinary occurance to be blessed with the opportunity to meet, shake hands, embrace, sit in the presence of and listen to the speeches of the Holiest man of the day on this earth.

The main speeches of Jalsa Salana were delivered in Urdu to benefit the majority of the people. Guides were assigned to interpret for those of us who could not understand. However, the impact of the spirit was still felt. Love from the so many kind hearted people was flowing like a river.

I saw much more progress in Rabwah than expected. It is amazing how they have accomplished so much in such a short time.

Qadian: When our bus arrived in Qadian a feeling came over me which I hope I will never forget. It seemed as if the entire Ahmadi community had come out to greet us and it was truly overwhelming to hear the children along with the adults crying "Allah-Akbar"! They were so happy to see us and we to see them. I think they expect foreigners to visit each year.

To visit places where the Promised Messiah was born, to see the room where the red drops fell on his clothes, to walk where he used to walk, to pray where he used to pray and to visit his and the first Khalifa's grave is a tremendously wonderful experience.

SHED TEARS OF JOY

(UMAR FARUQ QADDAFI, DAYTON OHIO)

In reflecting upon my impressions of Jalsa Salana, Rabwah and Qadian, a thousand mental images flash before the eye of my mind. Flashbacks of the journey to Pakistan, Rabwah, the Jalsa, Huzur, Qadian and thousands more constantly appear in my mind and then fade into a new image. I also hear sounds echoing in the ear of my mind. The Azan being called, the smooth "As Salaamu Alaikum" of thousands of Ahmadis and the unforgettable Takbirs of over one hundred thousand faithful voices, "Nara-e-Takbir...Allahu Akbar!, Nara-e-Takbir...Allahu Akbar"! Reflection which brings back so many images and memories also brings back the tears of joy and exhilaration I shed with my brothers at Rabwah and Qadian. This was the deepest of all of my impressions.

The sincerity in the emotional expressions of the people. Yes, I cried, but I cried because of the joy I felt in realizing where I was and what was going on around me. I cried because of the sheer happiness I felt in seeing Islam in its true form and being able to see the truth of Ahmadiyyat manifested before my eyes. But the people around me wept for something deeper than that. They cried to Almighty Allah, as something deeper than that. They cried as if pleading, begging, imploring Allah to forgive and save their fellow human beings. This was the most striking thing I have ever seen. My first experience of it came at Tahajjud prayer the first morning we were in

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Rabwah. Masjid Mubarak was packed with thousands of Ahmadis two and a half hours before Fajr prayer. We were led in prayer by a brother who recited the Quran very beautifully, and when he began to recite special prayers for the uplift of mankind and the spread of Islam, thousands of grown men began to cry, imploring, beseeching Allah to help us save the human race from the blindness and ignorance which they had fallen into. When we prostrated in sajdah, it intensified. That sight, that sound, sticks in my mind and constantly returns to remind me of the spirit of Jalsa Salana, a Divine event. I experienced this throughout my visit at Rabwah and Qadian. However, the most intense feeling of this type was displayed during the last session of the Jalsa.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III (may Allah strengthen him with His help) was giving the final address of the Jalsa and he was exhorting Ahmadis all over the world and particularly those of Pakistan, that even though they had suffered all types of physical, mental, emotional and economical tortures and persecutions, they were to forget all that had been done to them, forgive the people who had inflicted these torments upon them and "meet the opposition with love"!!! No worldly man of worldly ambitions could have done anything like that. At the end of his speech he led the entire gathering in a prayer for the salvation and uplift of the whole of mankind. This time of the one hundred and twenty-five thousand Ahmadis in attendance, I would say that the majority broke down in tears and sobs of love and concern for humanity and pleas for Divine help. This truly was a manifestation of what Muslims were created to be.

I will never forget that sight, that sound and that feeling. I now firmly believe that one must have that same feeling of self-denial and self-scarifice to be a true Ahmadi. It has inspired me to strive to instill that same love for humanity in my heart and mind. It is beyond the imagination of a person coming from this worldly society, and you must see it for yourself to be able to understand just what it was like. I sincerely feel that I saw the essence of Jalsa and the essence of Ahmadiyyat, love of God and love for humanity, regardless of who they are and what they have done.

There is no doubt in my mind that Islam is the "Light of the Worlds" and Ahmadiyyat is the "Light of Islam".

P4) American Delegates in NY.
P5) International Delegates in Qadian.

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BREAKS DOWN INTO TEARS

(Br. Rafiq A. Salam, Naib Amir of Dayton, one of the speakers at the reception given in honor of their visit to Rabwah by the Dayton Jamaat on January 17, 1976, had hardly uttered the words given below when he broke down into tears and had to stop short.————————Ed.)

In no way can any human being put into words what I saw and what I experienced. I came back with love, admiration, a different viewpoint and understanding of Ahmadiyyat. As all other brothers before me have said, I can only reiterate their statement, it is something one has to experience for himself. I can go on and on but to do so I would only have to continue to say you must see for yourself, the love, the compassion and understanding that one experiences at Rabwah and Qadian. The brotherhood and the unity that I found within our community would be forever stamped upon my heart. Hazur.....

SEEING, HEARING AND EMBRACING

(Habeeb A. Shafeek, Dayton Ohio)

By the grace of Allah, this humble writer has been blessed with the opportunity of attending Jalsa Salana in 1974 and 1975. There are many things that come to mind whenever this writer reflects in retrospect to Jalsa Salana. However the most profound, the most monumental is seeing, hearing and embracing our "Beloved Huzur". I have used the words seeing, hearing and embracing because they happen to be the exact order in which I personally experienced Huzur in 1974 and 1975.

The first time in which I was blessed with the opportunity of 'seeing' Huzur; was on the occasion of Juma. The Juma in Rabwah is conducted in Masjid Aqsa, the largest mosque in Rabwah. Everyone in the extensive but extremely beautiful mosque was waiting 'patiently' for Huzur to enter and give the Khutba. When Huzur entered it was like seeing 'pure light'. On his handsome face was a smile that could cure any sadness, and I have never heard anyone say "Asalamo-Alaikum" as beautifully as he does. As we all returned his salams, my heart began to pound at an exhilarated rate. I said to myself, "this is him, this Allah's representative on earth!" "This is the man Allah has chosen." The thought that I was for the first time in the company of Allah's representative was something that stayed constantly on my mind. I went on repeating to myself, "Allah's representative, Allah's representative!" I do not speak or understand Urdu but some how I understood Huzur on this occasion. To look into his eyes is like looking into a vast pool of knowledge, wisdom, and compassion. Just to think Huzur meets and talks to more people individually and collectively during Jalsa days, than all of the American potential presidential candidates in this year's election combined, is extraordinary.

But perhaps the most amazing was 'hearing' Huzur speak on such a wide range of subjects and the depth of Huzur's knowledge and insight pertaining to each subject is spellbinding. The knowledge and insight that I am referring to extends deeper than Huzur's outstanding academic achievements at Ox-

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ford University, in England. Huzur spoke to the American delegation on such subjects as Community development, Economics, Politics, early Childhood education, Secondary education, social, morals, theology, agriculture and History just to name a few. Time and space do not permit me to go into detail about what Huzur stated concerning each one of the above mentioned subjects. However, I must note that not only was Huzur able to address each of the above with the utmost proficiency but was also able to bring forth Quranic verses and other Islamic sources to substantiate any statement in any of the subjects he touched.

Something else comes to mind at this point and that is the manner in which Huzur speaks. Huzur speaks "to you" and "not at you". Huzur's voice is soft and sweet and there is always a smile on Huzur's face, not to mention Huzur's keen and witty sense of humor. On one occasion Huzur spent about 30 minutes relating to the American delegates the beauties and power of "a smile".

As I recall, the first time I embraced Huzur was a stunning experience. As Huzur grasped me in a way that a father would grasp his long lost son, I was filled with joy, emotion and thankfulness to Allah for granting this humble imperfect servant with such a wonderful blessing of seeing, hearing and embracing Allah's representative.

SACRIFICE IN ACTION

(BILAL ABDUS SALAM, PHILADELPHIA PA.)

There is so much to say about Jalsa Salana, but I do not know where to start. The most impressing thing is the Spirit and Scarifice of the people. From this I have learnt the true meaning of sacrifice, because I have seen it in action. The love they have for the religion and unmindfulness of the opposition, they continue to smile and go on praising Allah, this has branded in me the truth, a deeper truth than I had before.

Ahmadies are ahead of all others spiritually. We as Ahmadies in America should do more sacrificing in Islam. We have Allah on our side. This is why we must sacrifice more time and money to contribute to the success of Islam.

HEAVEN ON EARTH

(JAMILUR RAHMAN, AMIR, PITTSBURGH PA.)

Allah enabled us to arrive in Rabwah on December 25th at the newly-finished Guesthouse, and we were most graciously received and entertained. The next morning we heard our first Azan in Rabwah and I thought the trumpet of Allah had blown. We were conducted to Majid Mubarak where Huzur himself led the prayer. After salat we received greetings and embraces from a stream of our beloved brothers for about half an hour. Tears began to flow automatically. we were received graciously on our way to Jalsa.

Huzur had coats made for all the foreign delegates. We gratefully put them on and appreciated the honor he had done to us.

Referring to attempts to whitewash the words of the prophecy about the teachings of the Promised Messiah's message to the corners of the earth, Huzur stated, "you may whitewash the signs as much as you like, but you cannot whitewash these faces," and Huzur had us stand at that moment.

On the second day of Jalsa, it rained very hard and the question was raised to cancel the session, but Huzur sent orders that Jalsa would gon on. We sat in our seats. Our brothers, in spite of the rain, continued to come bringing with them dry straw to sit on in order to hear the speeches at this great

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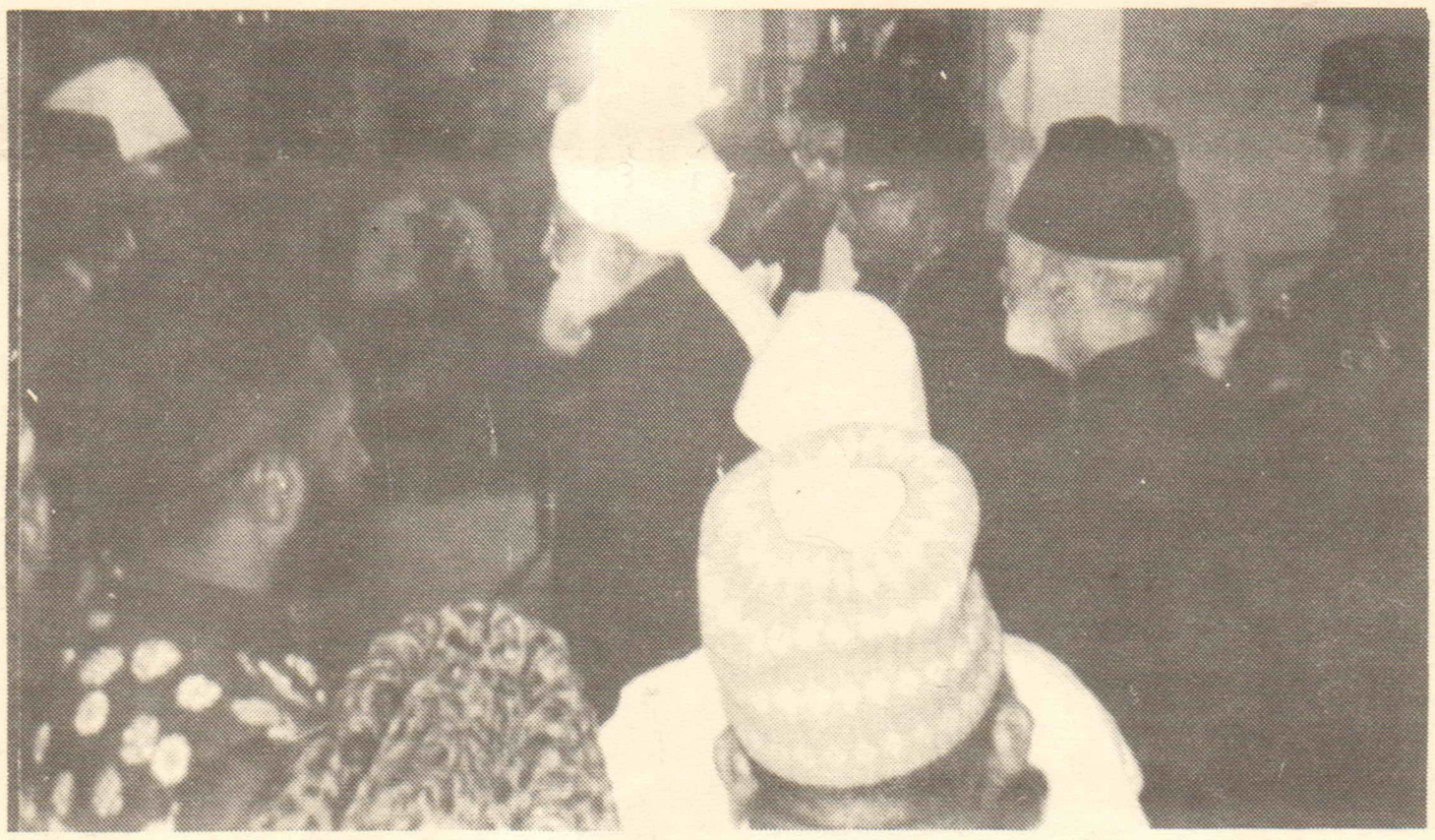
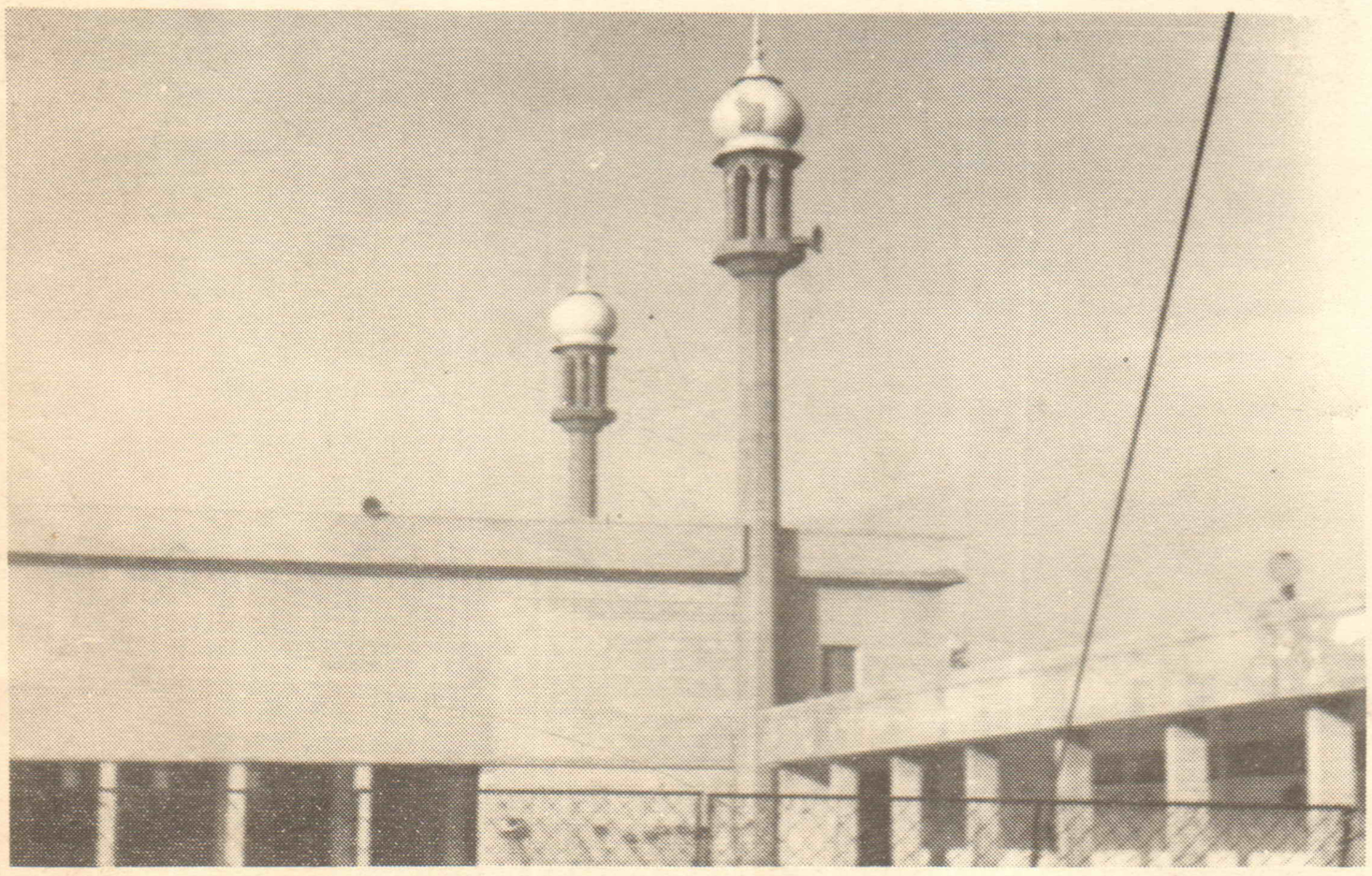
Jalsa. A moment later rain stopped and Allah caused the sun to shine. Huzur gave a report about the progress we had made this year and instructed us to be steadfast and pray to Allah for His help in the cause of Ahmadiyyat. Everyday Huzur led the prayer and there was a great manifestation of true Islam. We had three audiences with Huzur. On one occasion I offered a scarf of brown color to Huzur, Huzur took it kindly, and pulled his own from his neck and gave his to me. We also saw Huzur's farm and had tea and sweets with him.

After Jalsa was over we went to Qadian. That night it appeared as if the whole town was there to meet us, shouting "Allaho-Akbar", and crying in their eyes and hearts. We said fervent prayers in that Holy City.

In the Holy Quran Allah has promised us two heavens, one on earth and one in heaven. I must state for those that have not visited Rabwah and Qadian that certainly these Holy places are the heaven on earth that Allah speaks of. I hope that brothers and sisters of America who have not made the trip will start saving their monies right now and see the spiritual light of Allah and witness the blessings He has bestowed on those places.





P6) Hazur at the Guesthouse.
P7 &8) Two different views of the Masjid Aqsa Mosque, Rabwah.

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WOMEN'S SECTION

HAZUR'S SPEECH TO WOMEN

Dilating on the verses which he recited from Sura Nahl, Huzur said that when a man leaves this world, he leaves it empty-handed, leaving all the worldly wealth, relations and associations behind. Unless God shows His mercy to him, there is destruction and ruin for him in the hereafter. Nevertheless, God has assured His men that if they remain firm and steadfast in their faith, resigned to the will of God, He will reward them substantially. True believers show exemplary steadfastness in the hours of trials and remain firm in their beliefs, and willingly make sacrifices of all sorts to earn His blessings.

Hazur eulogized the spirit of sacrifice shown by the members of his community and exhorted the womenfolk to carry out the duties and responsibilities which Allah has imposed on them, faithfully through living good and pious lives and practicing all the injunctions of Islam, including Purdah, in their entirety. He also stressed the importance of our constantly praying to God to achieve our goal.

Hazrat Maryam Siddiqa's Address

Welcoming female participants to the 83rd Annual Gathering, Sadar Central Lajna Imaullah, reminded that the Jalsa Salana was initiated by the Promised Messiah for effecting a change for the better among them as God had commissioned him for reforming mankind.

When the Promised Messiah announced his claims even his co-religionists were determined to destroy him but God Almighty was pledged to grant him victory. "We are witnessing with our own eyes the fulfillment of God's promise. His message is now ringing in the whole world. It is echoing in the far away continents of America, Africa, and Europe, also in countless islands scattered over vast oceans," she added. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III she said, had given the glad tidings of the victory of Islam in the ensuing century. But success and victory calls for sacrifices too. So they should be ever ready to make more and more sacrifices in the way of God. She then admonished them to overcome their weaknesses both doctrinal and practical. They should practice Islam in the right way and present it to the world properly. "If what you preach is different from what you practice you will not convince anybody," she stressed. She exhorted mothers to teach Islam to their daughters. Addressing daughters, she urged them to learn the Holy Quran and traditions of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be on him), absorb the teachings of Islam fully so that when the time comes they might be fit to teach the same to their children.

According to her the greatest danger to Islam was apprehended from the Western culture. Ahmadi ladies should not adopt consciously or unconsciously such Western habits as are unIslamic, like non-observance of purdah and intermixing with men.

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IMPRESSIONS OF FEMALE DELEGATES

INCREASED IN SPIRITUALITY

(Nasirah Razaa of Kenosha Wis., a Senior Female Delegate)

As I made my last preparations to head for New York and join the delegates for Rabwah's Jalsa Salana, the full impact of the proposed trip had not fully dawned upon me.

Boarding the giant D.C. 10, the excitement amongst the delegates could be felt. Having strapped ourselves in our seats, we prayed for a safe journey and uplift of our spirituality.

On arrival at Lahore, I found myself reflecting about Lahore, its association with the Promised Messiah and his Jamaat. There were now with me, sisters who had not been there before, so necessary information had to be offered to them.

In Lahore we were served a "Brunch" at the beautiful home of the daughter of Sir Muhammad Zafruallah Khan and her husband. Soon after this brunch we were headed for Rabwah.

When Rabwah was in view, again I experienced the same spiritual excitement as before but I pressed my excitement to an inward soft whisper as I gave my attention again to the delegates, trying to point out certain features about Rabwah. The electricity of the excitement of the delegates could be felt. My own spiritual voice from within whispered, "Here I am, after all-Alhamdulillah!"

In Rabwah we are shown to our quarters, (I believe it is the house of Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad). As we entered, again I remembered last year's visit and Allah blessed me with inward joy again. Joyously we selected rooms, our luggage spread, and lo, there comes our beloved, Choti Apa, President of Lajna Ima Ullah, the world over; one of the wives of the second Khalifa, mother of Amtul Mateen, by beloved friend. Warm embraces from her for all of us. I introduced each unknown delegate to her. She also introduces "Lubna Saeed" who is to be our "In Charge of the in charges." We all grew to love Lubna with each passing day. It did not take her long to get the "feel" of the American delegation and she rapidly turns from "top servant" to "top servant and top buddy" as she served all our needs whatever the time of day or night, untiringly. Housed in the same building with us, is a sister from Nigeria, one from Sierre Leone, and two sisters from Maurituis. The timidness of the different delegates is soon swept away and our building rings with gaiety and sisterhood.

Jalsa begins and it is the same as I remembered it. And although I am never completely left alone with my thoughts, I get a special warming delight as I watch the new American delegates to Jalsa, and from some of their faces I can see they are having some of the same spiritual upheavels I experienced last year. During Jalsa Salana, Huzur comes to the women's area and addreses us. It's difficult to describe how I feel when he makes his appearance. I can only say to you "I love him and I will obey him anything good that he tells me." His address to me is soul shaking and I am impressed as ever by his wisdom. From last year I am armed with knowledge of how quickly our aides try to get us away from the milling crowds for brevity of time and while I embraced sisters with a heart full of joy, I nevertheless, made a quick exit.

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Jalsa for me is always a boost in my faith and a more awareness of the importance of perfect certainty, and an increased desire to purify myself with a firm resolve to follow in the foot steps of the Master Prophet Muhammad as pointed out by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian (may peace and blessings of God always be on them).

Qadian: Two bus loads of delegates headed for Qadian. Indonesians, Nigerians, Englanders, Canadians, Sierre Leoneians, Germans, Americans, and a few other countries represented by male delegates. We arrived about 9:30 p.m. and the streets and the bus area are filled with people. We hear shouts of Takbirs —— "Allaho Akbar", Islam Zindabad", with each shout of Takbir, we shout back a reply. Tears swell up in your eyes and often overflow if you are fully aware of the instrument that Allah has made of you in fulfilling the promise He made to Hazrat Ahmad of Qadian. Tears come to the eyes as you fully realize how your presence boosts the faith and belief in Ahmad of Qadian, and this can make you spiritually dizzy, as you become aware of all of your short comings and you feel "not worthy of this honor". Our stay in Qadian is a short one. We visited the Minaratul Masih that was built in the fulfillment of a prophecy that the Promised Messiah would descend near a white minaret.

The visit to Bahishti Maqbra is always soul-shaking becuae you become aware that the Promised Messiah's remains were buried here. Though our visit with Mirza Wasim Ahmad and his family was short, still my heart was again gladdened by Allah at the selflessness and tender loving care in which they hosted this large delegation.

We leave from Qadian shouting answers amid shouts of Takbir, Islam Zindabad, Ahmadiyyat Zindabad!!

My return from Jalsa Salana has been quieter, and the sense of spirituality more deeply engrained than before. I would love to go every year as it is a trip that will bring out your spiritual potential.

There is no magic in Rabwah or Qadian, at least not the magic of our "Nursery Tales". But if you arm yourself with any spiritual awareness, Qadian and Rabwah will enhance it, nourish it and give you your first buds of what Islam and Ahmadiyyat are about, and what you should be all about.

Last year I said "go to Jalsa Salana and tell me your impressions", this year allow me to add, "take a little of whay you hope to bring back in a large quantity."

A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

(Alhaja Maryam Razia Zafr, Dayton Ohio)

My journey last year was a spiritual awakening. This year, it was a learning experience. The reception by our community there was as hearty and warm as last year. Our hosts were most hospitable and our every need was met with extreme courtesy that is to be found only in a practicing community of Ahmadis.

This year, Rabwah and Qadian were home. Seeing familiar faces and landmarks was heartwarming; but seeing the face of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III was overwhelming. There are still some things in this life that you never quite get used to or experience enough of. I always leave Hazur's company with a heady feeling and a deep inner glow. With each audience, I am more firmly grounded in faith. The magnanimity of this one experience, coupled

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with the overall atmosphere of sincerity and genuine love lingers in my heart from one year to the next. I always have a deep admiration and a wholesome respect for the office of Khalifat, after an audience with Hazur. A similar feeling may have been shared by other delegates. Some of this is probably what you see in us when we return. Many of us also see on a first-hand basis, an unquestionable obedience to authority and a distinguishable separation of custom and culture from religion. By some of us, it was a poi well taken.

The American delegates were both emotionally and spiritually moved, mor than once, to remark on the beauty of meeting with and talking to some of the very people we had read and heard about for years.

There are no words in my vocabulary to express my feelings at being in the company of Huzur's wife, Chhoti Apa, Amatul Mateen, Mehr Apa, Amatul Rashid and the many other members of the chosen family. It is very difficult to put on paper our deep impressions about these gracious and unassuming ladies that are representatives of what we all should strive to be. How do you write about the smiles, embraces, hospitality, and generosity that you share with such leaders of our community? Those precious moments are what you are remembering when your face takes on a far away look and your eyes mist over and your voice falters.

Our community in Qadian extended the same hospitality we had become accustomed to. Many of us were awed at being in the very same places that the Promised Messiah spent much of his time. And, again, we were blessed to be with his descendants. My experience has been that the most accomodating brothers and gracious sisters we met were the esteemed leaders of our international community and their families.

I feel that Allah has blessed me tremendously by enabling me to return to Rabwah and Qadian for a second time. Therefore, I shall leave any detailed impressions to those members of our delegation that went 'home' for the first time.

ENTERS INTO PURDAH

(Sister Ayesha Shaheed, President of the local Lajna and National Financial Secretary, who prior to her trip to Rabwah had considered burqa and the veil as a mere cultural requirement, now recognizes it as an imperative Islamic injunction——————Ed.)

Upon leaving Lahore enroute to Rabwah by bus, there were many sights to marvel at. Approaching Rabwah, if you can picture a city sitting in a bowl, substituting the bowl for the hills with its rustic color, as well as protectiveness then you are seeing Rabwah. To my knowledge no other place around was enclosed with hills.

The delegation was greeted by Hazrat Sayeed Maryam Siddiqa, who is in charge of her institution. Along with Chhoti Apa were the hostesses who would be answering to our every need. From then on, we were to be chaperoned everywhere, no matter how trivial the occasion may have been to us. We were made quite comfortable. The next day Jalsa Salana was to commence.

Jalsa Salana is an entity unto itself. It was a most inspiring moral